Development of Organic farming in Kerala

1867. SHRI SK. KHABIRUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step for the development of organic farming in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives and schemes Government propose to provide for the development of organic farming in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (d) During the Tenth Plan, a new scheme, 'National Project on Organic Farming' with an outlay of Rs. 99.58 crores is under process for approval which includes setting up of a National Institute of Organic Farming at Ghaziabad for production, promotion of organic farming in the country. One of the Regional Bio-fertilizer Development Centre located at Bangalore is proposed to be renamed as Regional Organic Farming Centre (ROFC) to promote organic farming in Southern States including Kerala. The scheme envisages *inter-alia* the following:

* Putting in place a system of certification of organic produce including prescribing National Standards of organic farming.

* Capacity building for organic farming.

* Support to commercial production units of organic inputs like fruits and vegetable waste compost units, bio-fertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture.

* Promotion and extension of organic farming.

(c) The new scheme of National Project on Organic Farming has a component of giving financial support through back ended credit-lined subsidy for setting up of commercial production units of fruits and vegetable waste compost units, bio-fertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture in the country including Kerala.